

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7753

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 4185

E. O. 11652: NGDS

TAGS: PFOR, CPAS, IN, US

SUBJECT: DROBOT CASE

REFS: STATE 058870 AND 067313

1. THE EMBASSY PUT TWO QUESTIONS TO S. R. MEHTA,
CHAIRMAN OF THE CENTRAL BOARD OF DIRECT TAXES, MINISTRY
OF FINANCE, WHO IS THE SENIOR INDIAN OFFICIAL DEALING
WITH THE WESTINGHOUSE TAX PROBLEMS. FIRST, WOULD IT BE
USEFUL FOR A WESTINGHOUSE REPRESENTATIVE TO VISIT NEW
DELHI TO SEEK A SETTLEMENT OF THE TAX PROBLEM. SECOND,
IF A REPRESENTATIVE (WE MENTIONED CHARLES LYONS) VISITS
INDIA, CAN HE FUNCTION FREELY IN NEW DELHI AND LEAVE WHEN
HE DESIRES TO DO SO.

2. MEHTA ANSWERED THE FIRST QUESTION IN THE AFFIRMATIVE,
SAYING THAT THE GOI WANTS ONLY TO GET THE TAXES PAID.
IT WOULD WELCOME A VISIT BY A WESTINGHOUSE REPRESENTATIVE,
CONSIDERS IT WOULD BE WORTHWHILE AS IT ASSUMES THAT
WESTINGHOUSE, AN INTERNATIONAL COMPANY, DOES NOT WISH
TO HAVE A BAD NAME BECAUSE OF JAN DROBOT. IN ANSWER
TO THE SECOND QUESTION, MEHTA SAID FLATLY THAT THE GOI
WOULD NOT DETAIN A WESTINGHOUSE REPRESENTATIVE. MEHTA
CONCLUDED THAT ANY SETTLEMENT WITH WESTINGHOUSE MUST BE
MADE WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO WHATEVER ACTION THE GOI DECIDES
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TO TAKE AGAINST DROBOT.

3. IN REGARD TO THE ADVISABILITY OF WESTINGHOUSE REPS
VISITING INDIAN FOR NORMAL COMMERCIAL BUSINESS, WE PRESUME
WESTINGLHOUSE WILL WISH TO WAIT THE ADVICE OF
LYONS, WHOM WE ASSUME WILL COME TO NEW DELHI ON THE
BASIS OF MEHTA'S ADVICE. WE WILL CONSULT WITH LYONS
ON THE QUESTIONS WHEN AND IF HE ARRIVES.
SAXBE

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